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Business Notices.

"ALDERNEY BRAND"
CONDENSED MILK.
ANGOSTURA BITTERS IS KNOWN as the great
remedy for the digestive organs all over the world.
In your homes. Ask your grocer or druggist for the genuine
article manufactured by
DR. J. C. B. RIGGOLD & SONS.
Cotton Manufacturers, Customs Receipts,
Dry Provisions, Etc. See The Tribune Almanac for
1882. Price 25 cents.
Dr. C. McNamee's Liver Pills used for fifty
years by all classes of persons suffering from a disordered
stomach. By mail, 25c. FLEMING BROS., PHILADELPHIA, PA.
Diplomatic Officers and Diplomatic Expenses
of the United States. See The Tribune Almanac for 1882.
Price 25 cents.
Foreign Decorations, Foreign Goods Re-
ported, Foreign Population in United States. The Tribune
Almanac, 1882. Price 25 cents.
FINGER NAILS AND COMFORTABLE FEET.
Dr. J. P. Fawcett & Co., Chiropractors and Bone Setters,
manipulators. Finger nails beautified by four lady artists under
my instruction. Nail, lifting of nails cured. Nails and in-
creasing nails cured without pain. Corns removed. 50c. each.
Nail set at once. Manicure goods of all kinds. Reduced prices.
Only one, N. Y., 42 West 21st St., near 1st St. Separate
office for ladies. Established 1867.
President Garfield's Inaugural, President
Garfield's Popular Vote, Etc. The Tribune Almanac for 1882.
Price 25 cents.
The Best Ties Ever Used, New-York
Classic Ties Co., removed to 744 Broadway, New-York.
The best guide to the Events of 1881 is
THE TRIBUNE INDEX for that year. Price, 50 cents, postpaid.
Address THE TRIBUNE, New-York.
Use Brummell's celebrated Cough Drops. The
genuine have A. H. B. on each drop. Depot 410 Broadway, N. Y.

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SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE, 1 Year, 2.00
Sent by F. O. Order or by Registered Letter.
Address THE TRIBUNE, New-York.
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WASHINGTON—No. 1, 1222 F St.
LONDON—No. 20, Bedford Street, Strand.
PARIS—No. 9, Rue de la Harpe.

New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1882.

TWELVE PAGES.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The London cable dispatch to THE
TRIBUNE says the Liberals will support Mr. Glad-
stone's motion against the Land Act Committee.
—Mr. Bradlaugh's expulsion is said to be a mis-
take. —The Russian steamer Vesta, with all on
board, has been lost in the Black Sea. —Several
Nihilist prisoners at St. Petersburg have made con-
fessions. —The snow-storm in Newfoundland
continued for sixty hours.
CONGRESS.—The Senate was not in session yes-
terday. —The House amended and passed the
Post Office Appropriation bill. —In the House a
resolution was adopted to appoint a select com-
mittee to whom all petitions, bills and resolutions re-
specting woman suffrage shall be referred; bills
were reported to authorize the coinage of silver
coin on the metric system, to provide for ocean
mail service, for the retirement of trade dollars, and
to establish the Territory of North Dakota.
DOMESTIC.—A warehouse in St. Louis, recently
built and occupied, fell yesterday morning. —
Ex-Governor Palmer says there is no foundation for
the report that ex-Governor Tilden has asked him
to take the second place on the Presidential ticket.
—The payment of the railroad on the Richmond and
Allegheny Railroad ran down an embankment into
the river. —The General Assembly of Virginia
elected the Readjuster candidates Judges of the
Supreme Court of Appeals. —Several towns on
the Mississippi are flooded. —Argument in the
Standard Oil Company tax suit was concluded at
Harrisburg.
CITY AND SUBURBAN.—Mr. Conkling arrived in
this city last night; he refused to say anything
about his intentions. —The Tammany members
of the Legislature yesterday expressed satisfaction
with their position at Albany. —Some excite-
ment was caused by an alarm of fire in a Newark
theatre. —The report of the City Superintendent
of Schools in regard to truancy has been completed.
—The Rev. E. W. Donald has been called to the
rectory of the Church of the Ascension. —
Gold value of the legal-tender silver dollar (412½
grains), 87.34 cents. —Stocks were feverish and
irregular, but generally higher, and closed unsettled.
THE WEATHER.—Tribune local observations in-
dicate warmer and fair weather, followed by in-
creasing cloudiness, with slight chances of light
rain late in the day. Thermometer yesterday:
Highest, 34°; lowest, 18°; average, 25°.
Mr. Dummell, of Minnesota, is early in the
field, anxious to begin a fight to succeed Mr.
Windom in the United States Senate. The
publication of his exceedingly frank letter on
the subject will hardly help his chances.
It has always seemed inconsistent to drive
unwilling children to school when there are
not schoolhouses enough for those who want to
go. Still, while the truancy law exists, it is
well to have it enforced. But before we
build reformatories for the bad children, as the
Superintendent recommends, let us have pro-
per accommodations for the good ones.
The city is to be tortured by another walk-
ing match and its attendant evils. It is said
that this will be the last contest of its kind,
and that each walker is gathering himself to-
gether for a great effort. It is not impossible
that the issue is already settled and that some
well-informed person knows who the winner
will be. Judge Donohue has made an order
that the police shall not interfere with book-
making in the gardens. With great considera-
tion for the gamblers, he has made the order
returnable two days after the race ends.
Mr. Charles Francis Adams, Jr., thinks that
the railroad problem in this country is so great
that the solution must be exceedingly simple,
and he uses apt quotations from Robert
Stephenson to support his position. It will be
gratifying to the persons who selected the
present Advisory Commission to know that
Mr. Adams thinks there was not a better man
to be found for such a task than Judge Cooley,
of Michigan. He suggests Judge Cooley as a
member of the permanent commission with
those who love their neighbors even only
pretty nearly as well as they love themselves.

will be gratified at the encouraging report of
the Canadian Minister of Finance for 1881.
At no period, he says, has the prosperity of
the Dominion been higher, and this state of
affairs is mainly attributed to a protective
tariff. What protection has done for our own
country needs no comment. What it is doing
for our friends beyond the St. Lawrence is
also beginning to be acknowledged. And yet
there are people who still have faith in Col-
den's creed that "free trade is the international
law of the Almighty."

Mr. Gladstone's resolution censuring the
Lords serves a double purpose. It is a prac-
tical acceptance of the challenge offered by the
impetuous Marquis of Salisbury, and it is a
convenient expedient for uniting the Liberal
majority. That majority has been demoralized
by the opening divisions in the Bradlaugh
case, and needs to be reinvigorated by the solid
support which this motion will undoubtedly
receive after a protracted debate. Our special
cable dispatches state that the leaders were
taken completely by surprise by Mr. Glad-
stone's masterly thrust, and being thrown into
a panic made strenuous efforts to effect a com-
promise. The Premier, being on his mettle,
would not listen to any terms short of un-
conditional surrender.

Our regular London correspondent tele-
graphs two interesting rumors. One is to the
effect that General Skobeleff, the unworked
Russian darddevil, has either been negotiating
personally with the Parnellites, or has opened
communications with them from the Continent,
with a view to securing an Irish diversion
whenever the next and decisive advance is
planned from Central Asia. The rumor has
been industriously circulated by the English
Russophobes, and is telegraphed as an illus-
tration of the recklessness with which they
play upon human credulity. The other rumor
recounts the direful results of an American
diplomatist's thoughtlessness in teaching "Eng-
lish society" how to play draw poker. It
seems that there has been an extraordinary
development of gambling in fashionable life,
and that the queens of society are regular
poker-players.

THE MAP OF SOUTH AMERICA.

Recent changes in the territorial division of
South America are of interest to the people of
the United States because they affect the two
leading Republics of that Continent—countries
lying within the temperate zone, inhabited
by vigorous, enterprising and homogeneous
races. Chili and the Argentine Republic
have both proved that they have the stuff in
them to insure a prosperous commercial and
political future and to play leading parts in
the world's history. It is of special interest to
us also to know that the long-pending and bitter
boundary question between these Nations has
been finally settled by the good offices of
United States Ministers at Santiago and Buenos
Ayres. This shows how gladly and gratefully
the services of this Government are accepted by
the Southern Republics when counsel is
offered at the proper time and in the proper
temper by envoys who obediently follow in-
structions from Washington instead of adventur-
ing into the realms of forbidden and sensa-
tional diplomacy on their own hook.

By the treaty referred to the Argentines se-
cure the entire region of Patagonia east of the
Andes and nearly one-half of the Island of
Terra Del Fuego, a territory larger than the
whole of France. Chili possesses the Straits
of Magellan, with the islands lying north and
south as far as Cape Horn, together with the
territory on the continent south of the fifty-
second parallel of latitude. As a result the
Argentines are already surveying Patagonia and
preparing lands for colonization. This move-
ment is important, as will be understood when we
recall the fact that the Argentine Republic is
receiving by far the greater portion of the
emigration from Europe to South America, an
emigration already large and rapidly increas-
ing. The Straits of Magellan have become an
important waterway now that no steamer
doubles the Horn. By adopting this shorter
route and escaping the head winds at the Cape,
the time to Australia and the Pacific Coast
is shortened from six to ten days. Although
Chili now owns both shores of the channel, the
treaty forbids the building of a fortress or
mounting of a gun along its course, which is to
be maintained forever as a neutral highway
for the commerce of the world. The islands
on either side of it, as well as the Chilean
mainland, are now being explored and surveyed
by the Government. Copper and coal abound.
Traces of gold have been discovered. Dense
forests yield excellent timber, and rich grasses
promise an unfailing supply for cattle.
Now that the ownership of this
Southern wilderness is settled and the
title undisputed, the world can hope that it
will speedily be conquered to civilization by
Chilean enterprise.

Further up the Pacific Coast are other bound-
ary changes, actual or impending. We hear
of a treaty of peace between Chili and Bolivia,
under which the latter surrenders the sea-
coast strip between the River Loa and the
twenty-fourth degree of latitude, a piece of
territory about 175 miles long. This land had
always been claimed by Chili, but was ceded
to Bolivia on certain conditions and privileges
granted to Chilean citizens, and it was a
violation of those conditions which brought on
the war. It was always peopled by Chileans,
its railroads and manufactures built and its
trade developed exclusively by Chilean capital.
Before the war there were not 500 Bolivians
in the whole region. Of course there are none
there now, and a census taken in December
last gives it a population of 16,750, all Chileans.
Although it is always spoken of as Bo-
livia's outlet to the sea, it does not belong
naturally to that country, and very little Bo-
livian commerce ever found its way to the
ocean through the circuitous and difficult
desert route. The natural outlet from La Paz,
the chief city of that country, was directly
through Peru to Arica, and no doubt when
the final treaty is made the right of way to
this port will be guaranteed to Bolivia. This
river will be settled there remains north of the
River Loa—the new Chilean boundary line—the
Tarapaca district, for which Chili is
making a vigorous claim as a war indemnity.
This region, with another 175 miles of coast,
constitutes altogether about four per cent of the
entire territory of Peru. It is an utter desert
so far as the absence of any vegeta-
tion can make one, and valuable because
it is a desert, for nitrate beds as well as rich
guano deposits are only exist where it never
rains. It contained before the war about
30,000 inhabitants, two-thirds of whom were
Chileans, for the tropical lethargy of Peru
leaves the prizes of commerce on that coast to
be won by her alert and industrious rival.
Besides this Tarapaca has always been abso-
lutely dependent upon Chili for its food
supply.

Should Chili gain possession of the entire
coast claimed, from Camarones to Cape Horn,
she would still be much smaller in territory
and population than either of the two coun-
tries which formed an alliance against her.
Her signal victory over both is the triumph of

a higher civilization over a lower—the victory
which sound national credit, stable government,
industry and pluck will always gain in the
long run when they come into collision with
bad faith, incapacity for self-rule, and laziness.
The result has proved to the letter what THE
TRIBUNE predicted when the struggle first
began.

AMENDING THE CLIMATE.

It is one thing to abuse the climate of
North America and quite another to attempt
to work its reformation. We all, now and
then, have been equal to the former, but until
just now no one has arisen audacious and
forceful enough to do anything more. Man-
kind has occupied pretty much the same atti-
tude toward the climate of this continent—
indeed, toward all climates that they could
not countenance—as Mr. Robert Ingersoll has
occupied toward orthodoxy. That is to say,
they have been mere iconoclasts. They have
protested against much of the existing order
of climate, just as he has protested against the
bulk of the established churches. And precisely
as Mr. Ingersoll has not succeeded in present-
ing a trustworthy substitute for the thing
which he has assailed, so they have
failed in presenting to the world a re-
vised and amended North American climate.
Even the most profound of the
professors of applied weather have only been
able to furnish their fellows with "Probabili-
ties." None of them have developed the sweet
possibilities of the article they have been study-
ing. As for the average man not up in
meteorology, he has looked at the weather
as something which, like Fate, has to be taken
as it comes, and which, like the infallible pay-
ing teller of a swell bank, in no case rectifies
mistakes.

But we have fallen upon better times, or
times which will soon be better if Professor
Shaler of Harvard University knows himself.
The Professor obviously regards the weather
men of the past as being too crude and con-
servative to deserve anything more at his
hands than good-natured derision. They
never conceived of such an idea as a climate
being brought under chastening influences—
and there is where they radically differ from
him. He has a dazzling scheme in his
head which he has only to realize to
give the entire American Continent a brand
new cosmopolitan climate furnished with all
the modern improvements most valued by
those who catch cold easily. This scheme of
the Professor's is so simple that once it is ex-
plained every man wonders why it never oc-
curred to him some bitter night as he faced a
furious northeaster. Professor Shaler's patent
—for we presume he has had the invention
patented, all rights reserved—is explained in brief
by a contemporary as follows: "Once on
a time the Japanese current flowed
through Behring's Straits into the Arctic
Ocean. Then the Straits were wider than
they are now, because forces no longer
existing caused the coast gradually to rise.
The result of the narrowing process was the
"interruption of the warm current. The
thing to do is to make an artificial channel
through the Straits, so that the warm cur-
rent may pass toward the Pole again. Such
an achievement would reclaim a vast stretch
of land, giving North America a delightful
climate, dispelling the rough winters and
"tempering the fierce heats of the summer."

It will be seen that the thing is as easy to
comprehend as the Kely Motor or the Van
Deburg Flying Machine. All you have to
do, dear reader, any time in summer when
it is too hot or any time in winter when
it is too cold, is to go up to Behring's
Straits and cut yourself an artificial channel
of the necessary length and thickness. Of
course at existing railroad and steamboat rates
from New-York to Behring's Straits the trip
would be a costly one. But doubtless just as soon
as Professor Shaler's scheme takes effectual hold
of the public mind excursion trains will run
from the City Hall to the Straits with tickets
for the round trip so cheap as to place im-
proved weather within the reach of the hum-
blest. Sunstrokes will soon be a thing of the
past, those who deal in furs and furbines will
go into bankruptcy, the weather will become
so uniformly fine as to disappear from conver-
sation, and capitalists will fight for the control
of the New-York and Behring's Straits Railroad,
running direct to the orange groves of Alaska.

It is the contemplation of such luminous
signs of the unflinching progress of the age
that makes the heart of every appreciative man
dilate with commingled pride and expectancy.
We were taken that way several times at the
Centennial Exposition, but never were so af-
fected as we are to-day standing before the work-
ing model of this invention of Professor Shaler.

AGRICULTURE IN THE CABINET.

For a dozen years past, some scheme to ex-
aggerate the Commissioner of Agriculture into the
proportions of a Cabinet officer of the first
magnitude has been brought before Congress
at every session. The bill introduced in the
House recently only differs from its prede-
cessors in providing for a more elaborate in-
flation of our National Farmer, surrounding
him with a glittering staff of chemists, botan-
ists, entomologists, veterinary surgeons,
foresters, geologists, and statisticians of high
degree. The project contemplates a beautiful
though somewhat expensive Department; but
who wants it? and what will it be good for?
Surely the President can worry along without
any more constitutional advisers, for he al-
ready gets more advice, constitutional, uncon-
stitutional and extra-constitutional, than he
can well follow. The farmers of the country
have not been battering the doors of Congress
with petitions for any more Cabinet. If a
sensible farmer were asked whether the Agri-
cultural Bureau had ever been worth to him
the price of a pint of beans, it is ten to one that
he would answer with a prompt and decided No,
and he would be hardly able to point to a spot
where Dr. Loring, or any of his predecessors,
had caused two blades of grass to grow in the
place of one. He might be content to see the
concern shrivel and vanish; he certainly never
would pray for any more of it. The leading
agricultural newspapers scoff at the scheme. No
one asks for it except a few gentlemen whose
chief occupation is politics, and who imagine
they might help along their business in some
way by mixing a little agriculture with it.
The Federal Government controls a few sol-
diers and a so-called fleet, and it needs, there-
fore, Departments of War and the Navy. It
has relations with other countries, and these
call for a Secretary of State. It carries the
mails, administers law through Federal Courts,
takes the census, cares for the public lands,
grants patents, and pretends to look after In-
dian not taxed, and therefore it needs a Post-
master-General, an Attorney-General and a
Secretary of the Interior. It has a reve-

nue, and therefore it needs a Treasury
Department. If it ever absorbs the rail-
road and telegraph systems of the coun-
try it may need another department or two,
and surely will need more administrative
officers. When it assumes charge of the
people's religion we shall have a Minister of
Public Worship, and when it follows the ex-
ample of some highly civilized nations of
Europe and manages the theatre and opera,
a Department of Amusements will be needed;
and so will a Department of Public Instruction
when the National Government sets itself up
as an educator of the people. But a Govern-
ment needs no executive officer when it has
nothing to execute. We have no Secretary of
Commerce because the merchants and not the
Government carry on the trade of the country.
The Government digs no ore and builds no
mills or factories, and hence we have no Min-
ister of Mining or of Manufactures. On the
same principle there will be no legitimate occupa-
tion for a Boss Farmer in the Cabinet until
the Central Government goes into business as
an active tiller of the soil.

Now it is possible that an Agricultural
Bureau with a man of genuine scientific at-
tainments at its head, and working within cer-
tain sharply defined limits, might prove of
some advantage. But no one has yet ventured
to claim that the present Bureau has ever ac-
complished anything which justifies its exist-
ence. It was organized to collect and diffuse
information, and perhaps Dr. Loring, who is an
impressive orator, may be able to "diffuse"
some instruction at cattle shows and other
gatherings where eloquence is in demand.
But so far the Bureau has "diffused" nothing
except several hundred thousand dropical re-
ports which few people have ever read, for the
sufficient reason that they were not worth read-
ing. The worst thing that could happen to it
would be to amplify its scope, and then make
its head a political officer essentially, as a
Cabinet Secretary must be, inasmuch as he is
selected primarily because he believes in some
line of party policy to which his chief is
wedded, and because he can aid his chief in
carrying it out. Now we want no Republican
agriculture or Democratic agriculture, any
more than we want the Signal Service to give
us Republican or Democratic weather. The
last named Bureau and the Coast Survey, as
another example, are doing the country invalu-
able service because they are in charge of men
of superior scientific training and experience,
men who have before them the incentives
offered by a congenial life-work. It will hardly
be claimed that these officers would be bet-
ter work if their chiefs were Secretaries in
good and regular standing at Cabinet meetings
and subject to removal with every change of
Administration.

The bigger the Agricultural Bureau becomes
the worse it will be for agriculture, so long as it
is run by a political farmer. It can be made
measurably useful if placed under permanent
charge of some level-headed man who is an
expert in agricultural science and practice, and
does not aspire to be anybody's constitutional
adviser. If such a Commissioner were given
an appropriation large enough to enable him
to carry on for a term of years certain invest-
igations which are too expensive to be under-
taken by individual enterprise, the farmers of
the country might profit by his teachings.
Even this work is now efficiently carried on in
several States at their Agricultural Experiment
Stations, and as the number of these stations
increases the functions of the Central Bureau
would gradually be limited to collecting and
compiling the results of research at the separate
establishments.

WAGES OF WOMEN.

One of the illustrated papers recently con-
tained a sketch intended to illustrate the
fate of unprotected women in cities. A
young girl stands at the opening of two
ways; in one the sewing-woman goes
through the garret filled with starving shirt-
makers, the cheap sloop-shop, the almshouse,
to death; in the other the pretty lady cashier
with a good salary is seen in the palace of
joy, in the gin-shops, and finally ruined and
battered in the Black Maria. The dismal
sketch is true so far as it goes; but is only
half the truth. The facts are not nearly so
dismal as emotional sentimentalists would have
us believe. It is true that a girl who goes
as cashier into a palace of joy or as chorus singer
into a variety theatre stands almost certain
chance of utter ruin. It is also true that a
girl who tries to support herself by making
shirts stands almost as certain a chance of
starvation. But it is not true that these are
the only paths open to her. For one palace of
joy, with its blazing lights, liquor, dances and
depths of infamy, there are hundreds of quiet,
respectable families whose doors are open to her,
where as cook or chambermaid, if she chooses to
be clean, honest and industrious, she may have
a comfortable home, be well clothed, well fed,
and lay by a snug sum for her old age. The
tens of thousands of Irish, German and Swedish
girls who land at Castle Garden every year,
often without friends and almost penniless,
are not driven to starve as sempstresses or to
keep themselves alive in brothels. They are
filling places in almost every household in
the country, taking the business of domestic
service (the best paid and lightest labor for
women in the States) out of the hands of
American women. It is true that there is a
certain loss of caste implied among working
people in what is called menial service; but if
any young girl prefers genteel shirt-making,
the almshouse and death, or ruin of body and soul,
to honorable work, comfort and loss of caste
among silly young folk, our sympathy for her is
not deep.

Even as regards the low prices paid to semp-
stresses there is a good deal of public misap-
prehension. Women who work for the manu-
facturers of ready-made clothing use machines
—or rather, manage machines—which are run
by steam. They do receive starvation wages,
not because of any grinding inhumanity
in their employers, but because the profits
on that class of goods are small. A manu-
facturer pays a woman 10 cents for making a
shirt, but he has to sell it, material, work and
all, for 50 cents. It is competition, the sew-
ing machine and the inexorable rules of trade
that are to blame. The man has no desire to
grind anybody's bones to make his bread. On
the other hand, the woman can buy her own
and her children's clothes ready-made for a
pittance, which before the era of the machine
required half of her time to make. When wo-
men leave machine work for service, machine
work will be better paid. It is, too, a pure gift
of fancy to picture starving women bending
over the needle. Good hand-work on garments
is required now only by wealthy customers,
and is well paid for. It is so rare that it in-
variably commands a high price. How many
women readers of THE TRIBUNE are heads
of families can obtain at call an expert, neat
needlewoman? They can testify how hard it is
to find a skilled, efficient sempstress, or a
woman in that class skilled, and efficient in any
special work. Just here we lay our finger
on the real difficulty. American girls—the
daughters of laborers, mechanics, and
small tradesmen—are brought up with a

desultory smattering of knowledge at the pub-
lic schools, no handicraft whatever by which
they can earn their living, and a vague ambi-
tion to rise in the world, which usually means
to wear tawdry finery. There is a great deal
of false sentiment wasted on this class when
they are driven to work for their own support.
We know the wants, the temptations and the
low wages paid to women in cities; yet we
assert that any honest, decent young girl, who
has an ordinary amount of common-sense and
who chooses to work, can live comfortably and
lay by money, even in New-York.

With women who have others dependent on
them the case is different. Domestic service,
where there are children, is impossible, and
the wages paid to shopwomen are too low to
support a family. Here, by the way, is a proper
subject for the artist who would paint a
real injustice. The profits of our retail
shops are large, but the prices paid to
saleswomen are wholly out of propor-
tion to the amount of knowledge and
work required from them. From \$3 to \$6 per
week is the usual rate of payment, except in
cases where special knowledge commands a
higher salary. Out of this a woman must
board and clothe herself with a certain re-
gard to appearances which is simply im-
possible if she have no other re-
sources. The occupation, therefore, is
going from women really needy to young girls
who have a home and only wish to earn
money for clothes. In many establishments,
too, these miserable wages are curtailed by a
system of fines both unjust and cruel. This is
done, too, by employers who stand high in the
community as Christians and philanthropists.
It is to these shop girls, not domestic ser-
vants, that temptation comes with terrible
force, and it is their employers who are re-
sponsible.

For women who have children to support
we have two words of advice: First, leave
the city, as you can live at half the cost and
find surer employment in any inland town or
village. Secondly, if you have daughters, teach
them, as you do your sons, to do some one
thing well. No matter how common or poor
it be, give them some one knowledge or craft
in which they can excel. There will then be
no danger of either starvation or ruin for
them in the future.

CHRISTIANITY AND ITS ENEMIES.

A careful study of the views enunciated at
Chickering Hall last Sunday by the Rev. George
C. Miln (if he will pardon the use of the
prefix) shows that he is a disciple of Mr. Parton,
the prophet of the new school of unbelief.
Mr. Parton predicts for the "coming man"
a new religion, whose book of faith shall
contain all that is best in the Christian
Bible as well as the grandest thoughts and
nobler sayings of all time. Mr. Ingersoll
differs from both Mr. Parton and Mr. Miln in one
particular, viz., that he does not attempt to
forecast the future, but contents himself with
efforts to break down existing faiths. Ingersoll's
work must be well done, too, before the
airy tenets of the Parton religion will commend
themselves to Anglo-Saxon people, whose
religious sentiment is so marked a characteris-
tic.

During the Jesuit troubles in France a year
or two ago, Gambetta declared that it was in
the Church that the spirit of the past took
refuge and gathered strength. So far as we
can detect in the mass of his unsupported as-
sertion, Mr. Miln's main objection to the
Christian religion, like Gambetta's, is that it
is too conservative; that it clings too tena-
ciously to the creeds and dogmas of the
earlier days. Unwilling to be longer
trammelled by this conservatism, he breaks
away from it, and is rapidly swept along
through the various stages of doubt, almost
before he realizes it, into absolute infidelity.
From this point of view he talks loudly about
the need of a higher morality, as though the
highest morality were not the very foundation-
stone of a perfect religious life. From the
depths of agnosticism he must often turn long-
ingly to the quiet Christian faith which he has
abjured.

The Church has lived and grown great be-
cause of its high and noble aim. Agnosticism
has languished and will never thrive while
the fruit of its motive is nothing more than
mere carping at sacred things. If creeds are
not insisted on now as they once were, it is
no evidence of decay in the Church, but is
rather a proof that increased intelligence has
brought increased tolerance. But it is absurd
to say that the Church holds less strongly to
the cardinal principles of the Christian
religion—the inspiration of the Bible, the
immortality of the soul, and a belief
in future rewards and punishments. The
idea of physical suffering for sins after death
may not hold sway as it once did, but Chris-
tian men and women have not sacrificed in the
least their belief that good conduct here is
essential to happiness hereafter. Mr. Miln
would remove what he calls the degrad-
ing idea of hell, that is a belief in
future punishment. He would take away
the restraining and impelling influences
which are the outgrowth of the biblical teach-
ing, and rely solely for sober, honest modes
of life upon man's abstract love of right.
From such an enemy Christianity need fear
no harm. He offers nothing new, nothing at-
tractive, nothing novel. The only danger to
the Church lies in her following the course
marked out by Mr. Miln and his "ethical"
collaborers, and from this peril she has wisely
shrunk.

AN ICE QUESTION.

A correspondent who has been instructed by our
recent explanation of a "Ice-Cutters' Quarrel" asks
how it is to be applied when the owner of a mill-lane
does not own the land under the pond, but has only
leased the privilege of flowing it. May the owners of
the bank drive down upon the ice and cut and carry
it away, or does it belong to the millman?

This is what lawyers call a "nice question." We
answer it by saying that, speaking in a common-
sense, practical way, the ice belongs to the millman,
not to the owners of the shore. Speaking in that
very exact, microscopic way which jurists cultivate,
the ice (while lying unappropriated upon the pond)
is not anyone's property; the exclusive right of cut-
ting it is what is vested in the man who owns the
privilege of flowing.
The key to the question lies in realizing that ice
is simply water frozen. Now water, in rural streams,
is not regarded as property while it runs. A land-
owner does not own a stream in such sense that he
can destroy it, or divert it to run east instead of
north, west instead of south. Many disputes would
be prevented if dwellers on streams understood that
each has the right to enjoy the water in his turn.
But each person who owns or hires the land over
which a stream flows has the right to make reason-
able use of the water, if he does not prevent those
below from using it. He may not turn it bodily into
his canal for a feeder, for this withholds it wholly
from them. But he may employ it to turn his mill,
to fill a pond for beautifying his grounds, to water
his live-stock, to supply the boilers in his factory,
or for any of a hundred purposes. In summer
he may dip up as many painless as he wishes to
drink, so that he does not drink the stream dry.
In winter he may saw out as many cakes as he can
find safe for, so that the stream itself is not ex-
hausted. The right to use the water in summer and
to cut ice in winter is one and the same because the
things are one and the same;

and it is enjoyed when country mill-streams are in
question by those who own the successive tracts,
taking it in order. Who ever hires land for making
a pond enjoys, for the time being, the ice-cutting
rights of his landlord, unless they are specially re-
served in the lease.

Judges have been many years in coming to this
view, but we believe it is now generally accepted.
As lately as 1878 the New-York Supreme Court decid-
ed the precise question flatly in favor of the millman.
There was, indeed, an earlier decision the other way,
but it would now be deemed "behind the times."

On various aspects of the ice question there have
been about a dozen decisions in the several States.
PERSONAL.
John Kelly is expected home on Tuesday next.
He has visited various points in the South, has re-
ceived many pleasant attentions from leading men,
and is much pleased with his trip.
Ex-Senator Sharon has his best daughter, Mrs.
F. G. Newlands, of San Francisco, about a week
ago. She was a brunette,